

Shetland ~ Thursday 12 - Tuesday 17 June 2008

The wild and remote Shetland archipelago is renowned for its scenery, wildlife, archaeology and rocks, a must-visit for anyone who loves Scottish islands. The geology is very varied; crammed into a small area are representatives of the rocks that make much of the Highlands of Scotland – the Lewisian, Dalradian and Moine metamorphic rocks, granite and Old Red Sandstone. The icing on the cake is a unique assemblage from the Iapetus Ocean floor now visible in Unst in the far north.

This trip has been designed to give a thorough introduction to Shetland, covering not only the rocks but with opportunities to visit sites of archaeological and wildlife interest. We'll have short walks every day (maximum 4 miles), sometimes on rough ground, and a flexible programme allowing you some opportunities to follow your own interests.

The trip is being run in association with Allen Fraser of Shetland Geotours. Allen has more than 10 years experience of showing people the rocks – and more – of Shetland! Visit www.shetlandgeology.com for further details.

Outline Programme

Thursday 12 June Arrive Shetland – see transport below. Afternoon trip to St Ninian's Isle and Sumburgh Head in the south of Shetland Mainland.

Friday Shetland's Volcano Trail – Eshaness. Day trip to the northwest of the Shetland Mainland, including Eshaness lighthouse and Grind o da Navir.

Saturday West to East Traverse of the Mainland – viewing the Moine and Dalradian metamorphic rocks, the Walls Fault and the Valayre Gneiss, one of Shetland's best rocks!

Sunday Day trip to Unst, in the far north to view the ophiolite rocks from the Iapetus Ocean floor and Viking heritage.

Monday Rest day in Lerwick, time to visit museum, take a boat trip or the ferry to Bressay.

Tuesday Island of Mousa and Viking geology in the south Mainland. Course ends mid-afternoon.

Details

Cost

Course fee **£250** per person
YH accommodation, breakfasts & lunches **£100** per person

What's included?

The course fee covers instruction, course organisation, inter-island ferries and minibus travel in Shetland. Travel to Shetland is not included.

We will be based at Isleburgh House in Lerwick, a comfortable youth hostel with single-sex dorms. The cost above covers five nights accommodation and self-service breakfasts and lunches. Alternatively if you'd prefer B&B or a hotel you are free to make your own arrangements – please ask for recommendations!

For evening meals there is a choice of eating out or self-catering if you are staying in the hostel. On previous trips most people have chosen to eat out at least some of the time. We will plan to have at least one meal out as a group.

There will be 8-12 people in the group.

Transport

Transport in Shetland is included in the course fee. This will be in Allen Fraser's minibus and another hire vehicle if required.

Transport to Shetland is not included – there is an overnight ferry to/from Aberdeen (www.northlinkferries.co.uk) and regular flights. If several people wish to travel by ferry we can book together and share cabins.

Level of fitness required

The trip will involve short walks on paths and rough ground (up to 4 miles). There will be some flexibility in the programme, allowing you to opt out and do your own thing if you wish. Suitable for people who walk regularly and are accustomed to rough ground.

Booking Conditions

To book, send a deposit of £50 (cheques payable to 'Geowalks'). The final payment is due four weeks in advance. If you cancel your booking, refunds will be at my discretion and will usually only be made if I find someone to fill your place. Travel insurance is recommended.

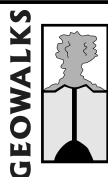
In the unlikely event of the trip being cancelled, you will be informed immediately and receive a full refund.

Recommended Reading

Geology and Landscapes of Scotland, Con Gillen, 2003. Terra Publishing, ISBN 1-903544-09-2.

Orkney & Shetland, Scottish Natural Heritage (Landscape fashioned by Geology Series), 2001. ISBN 1-85397-220-7.

Land of Mountain and Flood, A McKirdy, J Gordon and R Crofts, 2007. Birlinn, ISBN 1-84158-357X.



Angus Miller, Geowalks

23 Summerfield Place, Edinburgh EH6 8AZ

0131 555 5488 / 0797 997 1310

angus@geowalks.demon.co.uk; www.geowalks.co.uk